

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of cutting a laminated web structure comprising the steps of:

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(a) engaging a first side of the laminated web with a first crack initiator having a high rake angle, the first crack initiator extending from a first cutter base having a low rake angle, the laminated web including at least a support web, and an upper layer, the upper layer being thinner than the support web, the upper layer being located at the first side of the laminated web structure;

(b) simultaneously engaging a second side of the laminated web with a second cutter, the second cutter being offset from the first cutter;

(bc) generating a first crack in the first side of the laminated web with the first crack initiator completely through the upper layer;

(ed) engaging the laminated web with the cutter base of the first cutter; and

crack
-crack
initiator
further propagating the first crack beyond the tip of the first
crack initiator using the first cutter base, whereby while disengaging the tip of the
first crack initiator of the first cutter is disengaged from the laminated web.

2. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

propagating the crack through to the second side of the laminated web.

3. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a second crack in the second side of the web with the second cutter; and

(b) propagating the first crack to intersect with the second crack.

4. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the second cutter includes a second crack initiator.

5. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the first crack initiator has a height that is greater than a thickness of the
upper layer on the first side of the laminated web structure and is at least 5
microns.

6. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1
wherein:
the high rake angle of the first crack initiator is in the range of from ~~about~~
45° to ~~about~~ 70°.

7. (original) A method as recited in claim 6 wherein:
the low rake angle of the first cutter is at least about 15° less the high rake
angle of the first crack initiator.

8. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 4
wherein:
the second crack initiator has a high rake angle in the range of from ~~about~~
45° to ~~about~~ 70°.

9. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 6
wherein:
the first crack initiator has a relief angle of ~~not more~~ less than ~~about~~ 30°.

10. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 7
wherein:
the first cutter base has a relief angle of ~~not more~~ less than ~~about~~ 30°.

11. (original) A method as recited in claim 3 wherein:
the first crack initiator includes a relief edge that is either straight or
curved.

12. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the first cutter base has a rake edge that is either straight or curved.

13. (original) A method as recited in claim 12 wherein:
the first cutter base has a relief edge that is either straight or curved.

14. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the laminated web structure includes at least one additional layer residing
between the support web and the upper layer.

15. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the laminated web structure is an imaging element and the upper layer is a
protective layer.

16. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the laminated web structure is an imaging element and the upper layer is a
polymeric material.

17. (original) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein:
the polymeric material is coated onto the support web or onto an
intermediate layer.

18. (original) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein:
the polymeric material is a separate web laminated onto the support web
or onto an intermediate layer.

19. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1
wherein:
the upper layer is selected from a group consisting of a laminate is
polyethylene, polypropylene, or polystyrene, or a blend thereof, or a copolymer
thereof.